

BEST BRUNCHES FOR NEW YEAR'S

{page 21}

metro®

YEAR END
NEW YORK

Thursday, December 27, 2012

The year in review

► Before putting on those funny glasses and ringing in 2013, we look back at the stories, tweets and moments in pop culture that defined 2012 ► From Hurricane Sandy to the Giants' Super Bowl win to the death of Whitney Houston, what New Yorkers were talking about



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1

In the news**NYPD foils bomb plot at Fed Reserve**

The NYPD foiled a potentially deadly plot to blow up the Federal Reserve Bank. Quazi Mohammad Rezwanul Ahsan Nafis, 21, a Bangladeshi national, was arrested on Oct. 17 after investigators said he parked a van containing what he believed to be a 1,000-pound bomb outside the Federal Reserve Bank. Nafis is accused of conspiring to detonate the bomb from a hotel. 

In the news**Cop charged in cannibal plot**

An NYPD cop was charged in a twisted plot to cook and eat women he kidnapped in October. Gilberto Valle, 28, is accused of having graphic online conversations detailing his plans to abduct women and cook them while still alive. Investigators said Valle, of Queens, kept a file of photos and addresses for at least 100 women, some of whom he had recorded surveillance. Valle pleaded not guilty. 

What a year it was for news

► A cop accused of cannibalism, a city smacked with a deadly hurricane and a cold case reopened after decades all made news



A flag in Rockaway

Bloomberg declares war on soda

Disgruntled employee opens fire near the popular tourist attraction

Two children were murdered on the UWS

Top New York news stories

New York City experienced an array of events this year — from a weather catastrophe to shocking criminal allegations. Read on for 2012's top stories.

Taking aim at sugary drinks

Mayor Michael Bloomberg's so-called soda ban shook things up on both sides of the aisle when it was overwhelmingly approved by the Board of Health on Sept. 13. The decision means New Yorkers will be limited to sugary drinks in 16-ounce containers or less in restaurants, bodegas, food carts and theaters. Critics blasted the plan as yet another infringement on personal liberties by Bloomberg's "nanny state." But health advocates herald the ban as a key weapon in the fight against obesity. New Yorkers will feel the effects in the new year, when the ban goes into effect in 2013.

Two children murdered uptown

Just hours after news of the so-called cannibal cop broke, the city was shocked again when two children were brutally murdered in their own home uptown. Six-year-old Lucia Krim and 2-year-old Leo Krim were fatally stabbed in their family's Upper West Side apartment. Their nanny,

Yoselyn Ortega, was discovered in the same room with self-inflicted stab wounds, police said. The children's mother, Marina Krim, came home to the horrific scene with another one of her children. Ortega, 50, was taken to the hospital, where she remained for weeks. She was charged with the murders of the children and pleaded not guilty from her hospital

bed on Nov. 27.

Man opens fire, kills one near ESF

Terror struck outside the Empire State Building when a disgruntled former worker opened fire on the morning of Aug. 23. Jeffrey Johnson had lost his job at Hazan Imports, located within the building, in the past year. He encountered former co-worker Steven Ercolino outside the building, shooting him in the head at close range, killing him. Johnson turned the gun on police when they confronted him, and officers shot and killed him. Nine other people were injured in the crossfire.

Hurricane slams into five boroughs

New York is still feeling the effects of Hurricane Sandy, which claimed 43 lives in the five boroughs. The superstorm blew ashore on Oct. 29, bringing death and destruction with it. Hundreds of thousands of homes were left without power. Subway service was snarled for



► Protesters rallied during May Day.

OWS revamped

Occupy Wall Street, between periods of hibernation, made several comeback-style splashes, including a May Day protest that turned out thousands of supporters. During a full day of pickets and marches, 86 people were arrested. On the movement's Sept. 17

anniversary, activists once again filled the streets, this time with 181 of them ending up in cuffs. The movement re-emerged in November with its Occupy Sandy campaign, organizing supplies and sending volunteers to NYC's hardest hit areas by Hurricane Sandy.

Etan Patz cold case reopened

A 33-year-old cold case re-emerged in the headlines when a suspect was charged in the murder of 6-year-old Etan Patz. Pedro Hernandez, 51, reportedly confessed to police that he lured Patz into a SoHo basement on May 25, 1979, by offering him a soda. Hernandez, a bodega clerk, said he strangled the boy before wrapping his body in plastic wrap and putting it in the trash.

He eventually moved to New Jersey, where he reportedly told family members multiple times over the years that he had "done a bad thing and killed a child in New York." Hernandez's attorney insists his confession should not stand because his client suffers from schizophrenia and hallucinations.

months and the MTA estimates it will take \$4.75 billion to fully restore the subway to the state it was in before Sandy ravaged the tunnels and flooded stations. The immediate aftermath of the storm prompted Mayor Michael Bloomberg to cancel the much-anticipated New York City Marathon.

Bronx teen shot, killed by officer

A Bronx teenager was followed into his home on Feb. 2 and shot by an NYPD officer in his bathroom. Ramarley Graham, who was unarmed, was reportedly trying to flush marijuana down the toilet. He died from a single gunshot. Officer Richard Haste pleaded not guilty in June to manslaughter in the death of the 18-year-old. Haste was in an undercover narcotics unit, and officers reportedly thought Graham had a gun. Graham's death sparked outrage in the community from those who say minorities are unfairly targeted.

 CASSANDRA GARRISON



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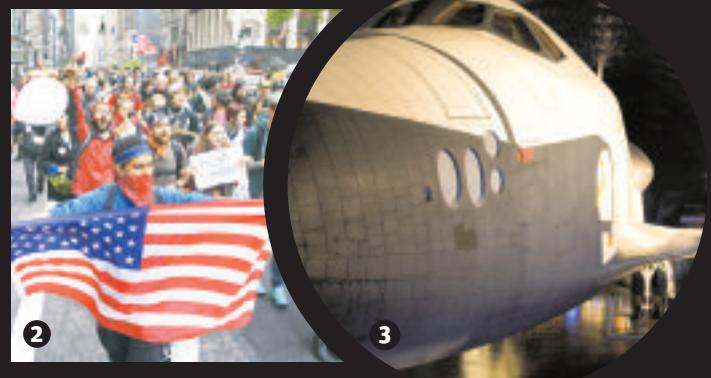
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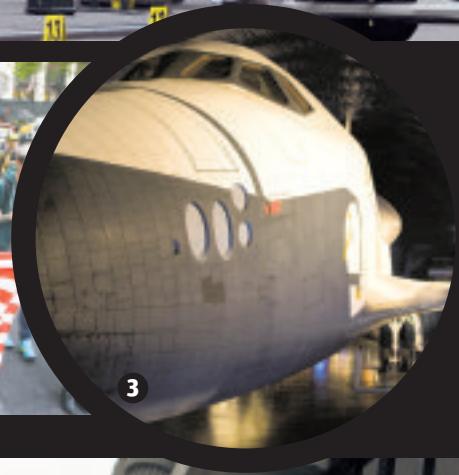
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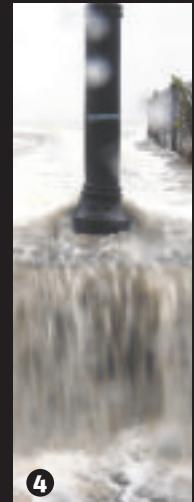
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5

TOP, ABOVE AND BELOW, GETTY. SHUTTLE AND PROTEST, MILES DIXON.

News in pictures

A space shuttle, a hurricane and crime

This year, the photos arriving from news stories in New York ranged from crime scenes to churning weather patterns.

1: New York City police investigated a crime scene near the Empire State Building, where a man



6

shot and killed a victim in the heavily tourist-centric area.
2: Occupy Wall Street re-emerged for a May Day protest, which drew many protesters.

3: The space shuttle Enterprise opened in a

new exhibit at the Intrepid Sea, Air and Space Museum in July.
5: People left flowers and other mementos after two children were killed on the Upper West Side.
4 and 6: Hurricane Sandy landed in New Jersey.



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The Olympics

The official summer Olympics medal table ranking:

- ▶ 1. USA
- ▶ 2. China
- ▶ 3. Russia
- ▶ 4. UK

If ranked according to medals won in proportion to population:

- ▶ 1. Grenada
- ▶ 2. Jamaica
- ▶ 3. Bahamas
- ▶ 4. New Zealand
(The US would be 47th)



▶ Kurt Felix, Grenada

The internet

32,708

Number of individual internet users the US government asked internet service providers to hand over data about between 2010 and 2012.

70

The number of requests Google complied with.

2012 by the numbers

Cities

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime last month released death rate figures for major cities around the world. Caracas (Venezuela), Guatemala City

(Guatemala) and Basseterre (St. Kitts and Nevis) are the most dangerous. Murder rate per 100,000 population

- ▶ Caracas: 122
- ▶ Guatemala City: 118.3
- ▶ Basseterre: 97.6
- ▶ New York: 5.6



▶ Guatemala City had the second highest murder rate in 2012

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Credit

- ▶ 1 out of every 7 Americans owned 10 credit cards or more.
- ▶ More than 6 million US mortgages are in arrears.
- ▶ If you gathered together all of America's officially unemployed people, they'd create the world's **68th largest nation** by population.
- ▶ The poorest 50 percent of Americans now own just 2.5 per cent of the nation's wealth.
- ▶ The **richest 1 percent** of Americans own more of the nation's wealth than the bottom 90 percent combined.
- ▶ **1 in every 10** people use 1234 as the pin to their debit or credit cards.
- ▶ Next most common are: 1111, 0000, 1212, 7777. The least frequently used: 8068.
- ▶ The Asia Pacific region had 23,844 multi-millionaires in 2012.
- ▶ Singapore had most as a proportion to population, but Vietnam saw the highest proportional growth in the super-rich between 2007-2011.

Wine

American wine is among the strongest in the world. Its reported average strength is 13.48 percent alcohol by volume. The American

Association of Wine Economists estimates actual strength on average is 13.16 percent. Others:

- ▶ France: 13%
- ▶ Italy: 12.97%
- ▶ Argentina: 13.79%

JANUVIA® (sitagliptin) tablets are widely available on most insurance plans.^a

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Today, I chose exercise
and talked to my doctor.



Actor Portrayal

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- JANUVIA is a once-daily prescription pill that helps your body increase the insulin made in your pancreas and decrease the sugar made in your liver.
- Along with diet and exercise, JANUVIA helps lower blood sugar levels in adults with type 2 diabetes.
- By itself, JANUVIA is not likely to cause weight gain or low blood sugar (hypoglycemia).

JANUVIA (jah-NEW-vee-ah) should not be used in patients with type 1 diabetes or with diabetic ketoacidosis (increased ketones in the blood or urine). If you have had pancreatitis (inflammation of the pancreas), it is not known if you have a higher chance of getting it while taking JANUVIA.

Selected Risk Information About JANUVIA

Serious side effects can happen in people who take JANUVIA, including pancreatitis, which may be severe and lead to death. Before you start taking JANUVIA, tell your doctor if you've ever had pancreatitis. Stop taking JANUVIA and call your doctor right away if you have pain in your stomach area (abdomen) that is severe and will not go away. The pain may be felt going from your abdomen through to your back. The pain may happen with or without vomiting. These may be symptoms of pancreatitis.

Do not take JANUVIA if you are allergic to any of its ingredients, including sitagliptin. Symptoms of serious allergic reactions to JANUVIA, including rash, hives, and swelling of the face, lips, tongue, and throat that may cause difficulty breathing or swallowing, can occur. If you have any symptoms of a serious allergic reaction, stop taking JANUVIA and call your doctor right away.

^aFormulary data provided by Pinsonault Associates, LLC, April 2012.

Please read the Medication Guide on the adjacent page for more detailed information.



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bTerms and conditions apply. Please see next page.

Eligible patients may receive a free 30-day trial supply of JANUVIA® (sitagliptin) tablets.

1. Take this voucher to your next appointment. Ask your doctor about JANUVIA.
 2. Get a free 30-day trial supply of JANUVIA if your doctor says it's right for you. No purchase is required. Not valid for refills.
- JANUVIA is a prescription medication. Only your health care provider can decide if JANUVIA is right for you. How this voucher works:
- This voucher can be used 1 time before the expiration date.
 - To receive your free 30-day trial supply of JANUVIA, take this voucher with your valid signed prescription to any participating eligible retail pharmacy (certain restrictions apply).
 - There is no requirement to purchase any product or service to receive your free 30-day trial supply of JANUVIA.
 - Restrictions apply. Please see Terms and Conditions on the back of this voucher.
 - Expiration Date: 06/30/2013
- Prescriber
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- Read the Prescribing Information before prescribing JANUVIA.
 - Write a prescription for up to 30 tablets of JANUVIA. No substitutions are permitted.
 - Refills are not required and there are no requirements to purchase any product or service to use this voucher. If you want your patient to continue taking JANUVIA beyond the free trial period, please write a separate prescription based on your recommended therapy.
 - Fill in the dose on this voucher.
 - Give the valid signed prescription and this voucher to the patient.

Januvia®
(sitagliptin) tablets

Dose _____ mg
Offer valid for up to 30 tablets.

- Eligible patients can take this voucher and the prescription to any participating eligible retail pharmacy to receive their free 30-day trial supply.
- For additional copies of the Prescribing Information, call 800-672-6372, visit www.Januvia.com, or contact your Merck representative.
- Pharmacist
- Only 1 voucher may be used per patient. Voucher may not be transferred to another patient.
 - There is no requirement for patient to purchase any product or service and refills are not required.
 - Please ensure that the medication and dosage strength selected match the medication and dosage strength on the prescription.
 - Submit claim to McKesson Corporation using BIN No. 610524. For pharmacy processing questions, please call the Help Desk at 800-657-7613.
 - For all other prescriptions, please use the patient's primary method of payment and a new Rx number.
 - By processing this voucher, you agree that no claim for payment or reimbursement may be submitted for the free trial supply to any patient or any third-party payer, including federal or state health care programs (Medicaid, Medicare [including true out-of-pocket expense (TrOOP)], or any other state or federal medical or pharmaceutical benefit or pharmaceutical assistance program), private insurers, and health or pharmacy benefit plans.
 - For auditing purposes, a copy of this voucher must be attached to the original prescription and retained by the pharmacy. McKesson Corporation reserves the right to review all records and documentation relating to the dispensing of product.
 - By accepting this voucher, you agree to the terms hereof.
 - **No universal claim forms will be processed.**

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RxBIN No: 610524 RxPCN: 1016 RxGroup: 40026500 Issuer: (80840) ID: 061622018

THIS VOUCHER IS NOT INSURANCE

Medication Guide

JANUVIA® (jah-NEW-vee-ah) (sitagliptin) Tablets

Read this Medication Guide carefully before you start taking JANUVIA and each time you get a refill. There may be new information. This information does not take the place of talking with your doctor about your medical condition or your treatment. If you have any questions about JANUVIA, ask your doctor or pharmacist.

What is the most important information I should know about JANUVIA?

Serious side effects can happen in people taking JANUVIA, including inflammation of the pancreas (pancreatitis) which may be severe and lead to death.

Certain medical problems make you more likely to get pancreatitis.

Before you start taking JANUVIA:

Tell your doctor if you have ever had:

- pancreatitis
- stones in your gallbladder (gallstones)
- a history of alcoholism
- high blood triglyceride levels
- kidney problems

Stop taking JANUVIA and call your doctor right away if you have pain in your stomach area (abdomen) that is severe and will not go away. The pain may be felt going from your abdomen through to your back. The pain may happen with or without vomiting. These may be symptoms of pancreatitis.

What is JANUVIA?

- JANUVIA is a prescription medicine used along with diet and exercise to lower blood sugar in adults with type 2 diabetes.
- JANUVIA is not for people with type 1 diabetes.
- JANUVIA is not for people with diabetic ketoacidosis (increased ketones in your blood or urine).
- If you have had pancreatitis (inflammation of the pancreas) in the past, it is not known if you have a higher chance of getting pancreatitis while you take JANUVIA.
- It is not known if JANUVIA is safe and effective when used in children under 18 years of age.

Who should not take JANUVIA?

Do not take JANUVIA if:

- you are allergic to any of the ingredients in JANUVIA. See the end of this Medication Guide for a complete list of ingredients in JANUVIA.

Symptoms of a serious allergic reaction to JANUVIA may include:

- rash
- raised red patches on your skin (hives)
- swelling of the face, lips, tongue, and throat that may cause difficulty in breathing or swallowing

What should I tell my doctor before taking JANUVIA?

Before you take JANUVIA, tell your doctor if you:

- have or have had inflammation of your pancreas (pancreatitis).
- have kidney problems.
- have any other medical conditions.
- are pregnant or plan to become pregnant. It is not known if JANUVIA will harm your unborn baby. If you are pregnant, talk with your doctor about the best way to control your blood sugar while you are pregnant.

Pregnancy Registry: If you take JANUVIA at any time during your pregnancy, talk with your doctor about how you can join the JANUVIA pregnancy registry. The purpose of this registry is to collect information about the health of you and your baby. You can enroll in this registry by calling 1-800-986-8999.

- are breast-feeding or plan to breast-feed. It is not known if JANUVIA will pass into your breast milk. Talk with your doctor about the best way to feed your baby if you are taking JANUVIA.

Tell your doctor about all the medicines you take, including prescription and non-prescription medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements.

Know the medicines you take. Keep a list of your medicines and show it to your doctor and pharmacist when you get a new medicine.

How should I take JANUVIA?

- Take JANUVIA 1 time each day exactly as your doctor tells you.
- You can take JANUVIA with or without food.
- Take JANUVIA tablets whole. Do not split, crush, or chew JANUVIA tablets before swallowing. If you cannot swallow JANUVIA tablets whole tell your doctor.
- Your doctor may do blood tests from time to time to see how well your kidneys are working. Your doctor may change your dose of JANUVIA based on the results of your blood tests.
- Your doctor may tell you to take JANUVIA along with other diabetes medicines. Low blood sugar can happen more often when JANUVIA is taken with certain other diabetes medicines. See "What are the possible side effects of JANUVIA?".
- If you miss a dose, take it as soon as you remember. If you do not remember until it is time for your next dose, skip the missed dose and go back to your regular schedule. Do not take two doses of JANUVIA at the same time.
- If you take too much JANUVIA, call your doctor or local Poison Control Center right away.
- When your body is under some types of stress, such as fever, trauma (such as a car accident), infection or surgery, the amount of diabetes medicine that you need may change. Tell your doctor right away if you have any of these conditions and follow your doctor's instructions.
- Check your blood sugar as your doctor tells you to.

- Stay on your prescribed diet and exercise program while taking JANUVIA.

- Talk to your doctor about how to prevent, recognize and manage low blood sugar (hypoglycemia), high blood sugar (hyperglycemia), and problems you have because of your diabetes.
- Your doctor will check your diabetes with regular blood tests, including your blood sugar levels and your hemoglobin A1C.

What are the possible side effects of JANUVIA?

Serious side effects have happened in people taking JANUVIA.

- See "What is the most important information I should know about JANUVIA?".
- **Low blood sugar (hypoglycemia).** If you take JANUVIA with another medicine that can cause low blood sugar, such as a sulfonylurea or insulin, your risk of getting low blood sugar is higher. The dose of your sulfonylurea medicine or insulin may need to be lowered while you use JANUVIA. Signs and symptoms of low blood sugar may include:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• headache• drowsiness• weakness• dizziness• confusion | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• irritability• hunger• fast heart beat• sweating• feeling jittery |
|--|--|

- **Serious allergic reactions.** If you have any symptoms of a serious allergic reaction, stop taking JANUVIA and call your doctor right away. See "Who should not take JANUVIA?". Your doctor may give you a medicine for your allergic reaction and prescribe a different medicine for your diabetes.

- **Kidney problems,** sometimes requiring dialysis

The most common side effects of JANUVIA include:

- upper respiratory infection
- stuffy or runny nose and sore throat
- headache

JANUVIA may have other side effects, including:

- stomach upset and diarrhea
- swelling of the hands or legs, when JANUVIA is used with rosiglitazone (Avandia®). Rosiglitazone is another type of diabetes medicine.

These are not all the possible side effects of JANUVIA. For more information, ask your doctor or pharmacist.

Tell your doctor if you have any side effect that bothers you, is unusual or does not go away.

Call your doctor for medical advice about side effects. You may report side effects to FDA at 1-800-FDA-1088.

How should I store JANUVIA?

Store JANUVIA at 68°F to 77°F (20°C to 25°C).

Keep JANUVIA and all medicines out of the reach of children.

General information about the use of JANUVIA

Medicines are sometimes prescribed for purposes that are not listed in Medication Guides. Do not use JANUVIA for a condition for which it was not prescribed. Do not give JANUVIA to other people, even if they have the same symptoms you have. It may harm them.

This Medication Guide summarizes the most important information about JANUVIA. If you would like to know more information, talk with your doctor. You can ask your doctor or pharmacist for additional information about JANUVIA that is written for health professionals. For more information, go to www.JANUVIA.com or call 1-800-622-4477.

What are the ingredients in JANUVIA?

Active ingredient: sitagliptin.

Inactive ingredients: microcrystalline cellulose, anhydrous dibasic calcium phosphate, croscarmellose sodium, magnesium stearate, and sodium stearyl fumarate. The tablet film coating contains the following inactive ingredients: polyvinyl alcohol, polyethylene glycol, talc, titanium dioxide, red iron oxide, and yellow iron oxide.

What is type 2 diabetes?

Type 2 diabetes is a condition in which your body does not make enough insulin, and the insulin that your body produces does not work as well as it should. Your body can also make too much sugar. When this happens, sugar (glucose) builds up in the blood. This can lead to serious medical problems.

High blood sugar can be lowered by diet and exercise, and by certain medicines when necessary.

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Manufactured by:
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US Patent Nos.: 6,699,871 and 7,326,708

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Revised 04/2012

USMG-T-04311204R008

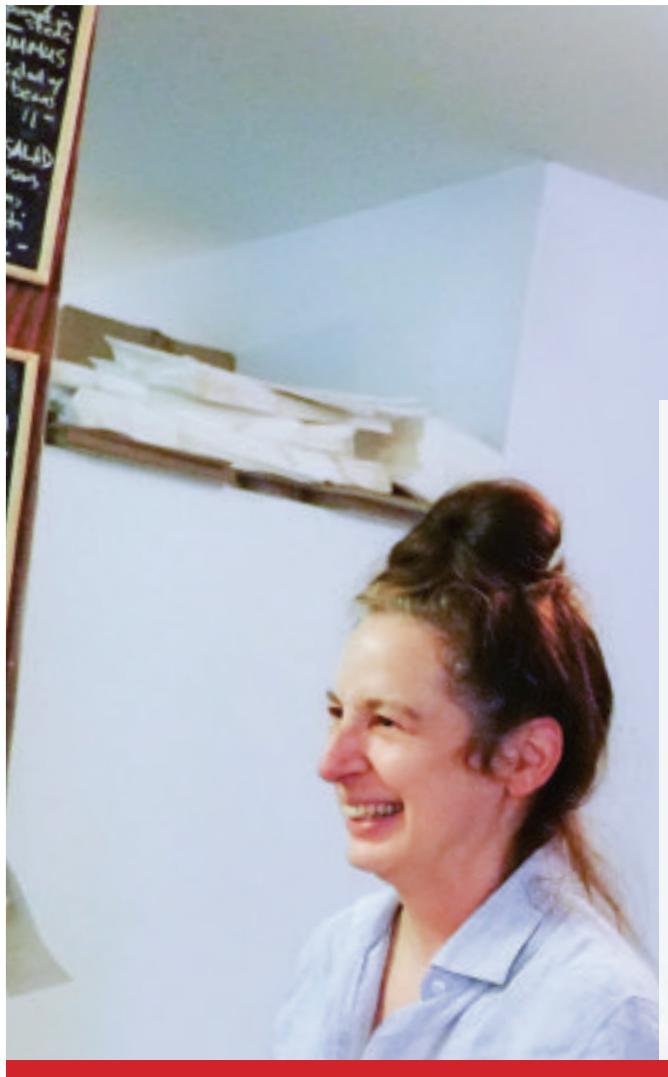
This Medication Guide has been approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

DIAB-1039462-0000 07/12

Terms and Conditions

- This voucher is valid for 1 free 30-day trial supply of JANUVIA.
- Limit 1 voucher per patient for the duration of the program.
- Valid for 1-time use only. Free trial offer is valid only for up to 30 tablets of JANUVIA. No purchase is necessary. Refills are not required.
- This voucher is not transferable. No substitutions are permitted. Cannot be combined with any other free trial, coupon, discount, prescription savings card, or other offer.
- **This voucher is not insurance.**
- You must be 18 years or older to redeem this voucher. Patient, pharmacist, and prescriber agree not to seek reimbursement for all or any part of the benefit received by the patient through this offer.
- The free trial supply of JANUVIA cannot be used toward any out-of-pocket costs under any plan (such as true out-of-pocket expense [TrOOP]).
- This voucher can be used only by eligible US residents at any participating eligible retail pharmacy in the United States. Product must originate in the United States.
- This voucher is the property of Merck and must be turned in on request.
- Merck reserves the right to rescind, revoke, or amend this offer at any time without notice.
- **It is illegal to sell, purchase, trade, or counterfeit this voucher. Void if reproduced. Void where prohibited by law, taxed, or restricted.**
- **Please read the accompanying Medication Guide and discuss it with your doctor. Also available is the physician Prescribing Information.**
- **Expiration Date: 06/30/2013**

Januvia®
(sitagliptin) tablets



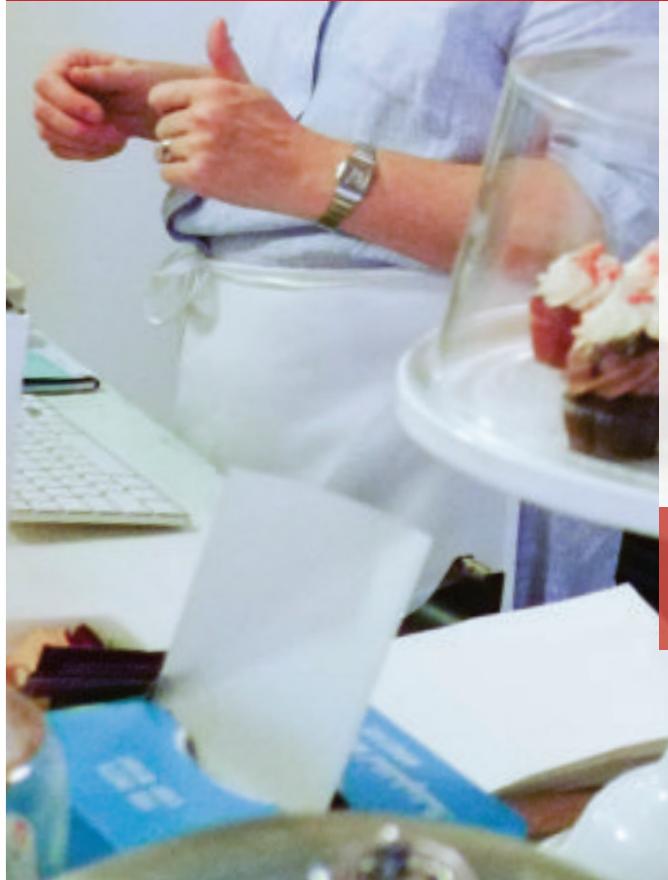
We're Back.

Flour has been restored.

South Street Seaport flourishes with business from local patrons and tourists alike, but that changed when Superstorm Sandy hit. Most businesses suffered extreme flood damage and major losses in inventory. Made Fresh Daily was able to repair their shop and restock on organic dairy products, local farmhouse eggs, non-refined sugars and flour. They're back to baking just in time for the holiday season.

Made Fresh Daily, South Street Seaport

Support NYC Small Business



Show your support for businesses that have reopened after Superstorm Sandy by patronizing their establishments. Find them by visiting nyc.gov and searching "Support NYC Small Business."



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The top 5 tweets of the year, according to Twitter:

Barack Obama: 'Four More Years,' Nov. 6

Obama tweets seconds after victory in Ohio confirms his second term as president. Retweeted more than 810,000 times, favorite more than 300,000 times.



GETTY IMAGES

► Obama



Justin Bieber: 'Avalanna. I love you,' Sept. 26

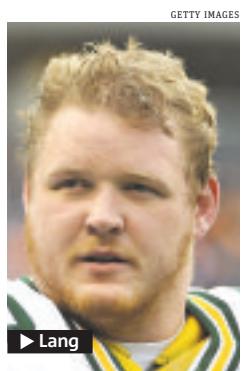
Bieber says goodbye to six year old fan Avalanna Routh who died from a rare form of brain cancer. Retweeted more than 220,000 times, favorite more than 100,000 times.

GETTY IMAGES

► Bieber

T J Lang: 'Fk it NFL...fine me and use the money to pay the regular refs,' Sept. 24**

Green Bay Packer T J Lang voices his frustration at replacement refs. Retweeted more than 98,000 times, favorite more than 28,000 times.



GETTY IMAGES

► Lang



GETTY IMAGES

Team GB: '29 Gold, 17 silver, 19 bronze – we finished 3rd in medal table after most successful Olympics for 104 years,' Aug. 12

Team GB congratulates British athletes after the 2012 Olympics in London. Retweeted more than 67,000 times, favorite more than 5,000 times.

► Great Britan

Yamachanoha: 'I would like to announce here: I Kochi Yamadera, have marries Ms Rie Tanaka...I am really happy to have met such a great partner and have our lives come together. We made up our minds to respect each other, help each other and build a home full of smiles,' June 17.



Japanese actor Kouici Yamadera announces his marriage. He and his wife are prominent voice actors. 68,000 retweets, favorite 6,000 times.

● METRO



GETTY IMAGES



► Yamadera

► Tanaka

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my year in review



Year end

Metro's reporters reflect on their Top 5 moments in pop culture, films, albums/singles and TV shows. The lists have been compiled and tallied to create Metro's overall Top 5 picks of 2012. Did your favorites make the list? Let us know at letters@metro.us.

TOP 5 POP CULTURE MOMENTS OF 2012

ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

► "Whitney Houston's death in February was a tragic event that symbolically set the tone for a year where the old guard in soul and R&B music gave way to a younger generation, as hip-hop kids like **Frank Ocean**, **The Weeknd** and **Miguel** basically reinvented the genre in 2012." **PAT HEALY**

► "I remember going to a party and it's all anyone could talk about. I mean, we all knew she wasn't doing well, but I guess we didn't realize the extent of her fall from grace until it was too late." **DOROTHY ROBINSON**

► "Our 'Kristen, How Could You?' cover is blown-up and hanging on the wall next to my desk. Every day I ask myself the same



Our votes

- 1. Whitney Houston dies.
- 2. Tom Cruise and Katie Holmes divorce.
- 3. Kristen Stewart cheats on Robert Pattinson.
- 4. PSY takes over the world with "Gangnam Style."
- 5. The royals are having a baby.

thing." **MEREDITH ENGEL**

► "At the risk of giving this any more ink: **Robert Pattinson**'s hair at least deserves to be cheated on in a proper hotel room." **MONICA WEYMOUTH**

► "I can't believe the Stewart/Pattinson break up made the list but 'Fifty Shades' didn't. That's bonkers. But maybe it's because we are all still in shock that such badly written erotica could take off

like it did." **DR**

► "I just wanted to say that I think my 2012 approach to the **Kardashian** family has really worked this year. I vowed at the onset of 2012 to not speak the Kardashian name aloud. And look at how you're not seeing them on quite as many magazine covers in the checkout line. They're not even on this list! Yes, the one that they call **Kim** is doing whatever she can to keep her flicker of fame alight, hiring **Kanye West** to pretend like he's into her, but in 2013, if we all agree not to speak the name of that family, I think we can finally make them go away forever." **PH**

► "I never thought I'd be someone who thinks of themselves as a 'Royal Fan'

Quoted

"When my mother asked me what K-Pop was, I knew this thing was bigger than all of us. Parents are the best barometer."

HEIDI PATALANO, ON "GANGNAM STYLE"



but I really dig **Kate** and **William** and I'm excited for them." **DR**

► "Agreed! Although I'm probably more on Team **Harry**. How much do you want that guy's life?" **MW**

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Urgent Health News

Experts surprised to discover fat burning effect in Raspberry Ketones

(Canoga Park, CA) In recent scientific studies, researchers have found that raspberry ketones affect the metabolism by increasing the release of two hormones, norepinephrine and adiponectin. Norepinephrine causes the body's temperature to rise which burns more fat. Adiponectin has *direct control* over your metabolism. When there are high levels of adiponectin, the cells are consistently *releasing* rather than *storing* fat. Simply put, thinner people have larger amounts while obese people have significantly lower levels.

Research and Development

Unfortunately, it takes an extremely large amount of raspberries to produce the required amount of ketones necessary to promote weight loss so the chemists at SimplePure Nutrition went to work. Using only natural, high quality ingredients, they developed a proprietary formula specifically designed to create the perfect metabolic balance ideal for weight loss. At press time their manufacturers were working overtime to meet demand for their free* trial offer.



"It's a miracle fat burner in a bottle" - Dr. Oz

SimplePure offers Free Bottle

With the exception of TV's Dr. Oz declaring that Raspberry Ketones were the "miracle fat burner in a bottle", the news about this recent discovery has been limited. SimplePure Nutrition is offering a free bottle of Raspberry Ketones so consumers can see the amazing effects for themselves.



To get your FREE bottle call immediately

Call 1-888-924-1354

Due to high demand, offer good while supplies last.

PLEASE CONSULT WITH YOUR PHYSICIAN BEFORE TAKING ANY NUTRITIONAL SUPPLEMENTS. IF YOU ARE ON ANY MEDICATIONS, CHECK WITH YOUR DOCTOR REGARDING DOSAGE ADJUSTMENTS. INDIVIDUAL RESULTS MAY VARY. THESE STATEMENTS HAVE NOT BEEN EVALUATED BY THE FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION. THIS PRODUCT IS NOT INTENDED TO DIAGNOSE, TREAT, CURE OR PREVENT ANY DISEASE. *SOME CONDITIONS APPLY.

Editor's picks

The Word
columnist
Dorothy
Robinson's
Top 5

- 1. Whitney's death
- 2. "Fifty Shades" phenomenon
- 3. "Gangnam Style"
- 4. "Twilight" breakup
- 5. Katie and Tom divorce

I hate to be so morbid that Whitney's death would be the biggest event of the year but it was just so shocking. Coming in at No. 2, for me, is the "Fifty Shades" book publishing phenomenon. It's not too often that a book comes along that every single woman — from your housekeeper to your grandmother — has read. It was neat to see "Gangnam" overtaking "The Macarena" as the biggest dance craze of the century, and it was also neat to see (in pictures) Kristen Stewart's car-seat dalliance. Finally, Tom and Katie's hardly surprising divorce puts in at No. 5.

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myyear in review

TOP 5 FILMS OF 2012

Metro votes

- 1** "Moonrise Kingdom"
- 2** "Argo"
- 3** "The Hunger Games"
- 4** "Silver Linings Playbook"
- 5** Tie: "The Avengers" and "21 Jump Street"

► "I'd like to qualify 'Moonrise Kingdom': It's on my list mostly — maybe only — because Bill Murray spends most of it in a bathrobe, drinking wine from the bottle." **MONICA WEYMOUTH**

► "And I would like to qualify 'Argo' for Ben Affleck's sexy '70s shag haircut. He reminded me of Ramona and Beezus." **HEIDI PATALANO**



► Kara Hayward and Jared Gilman, as Suzy and Sam, respectively, captured the hearts of the Metro entertainment reporters.

► "I saw 'The Hunger Games' and then went into labor two hours later. Coincidence? Probably. But still, I'm very impressed the filmmakers tried (and mostly succeeded) to make an artful blockbuster from the YA book series unlike the cinematic candy that is 'Twilight.'" **DOROTHY**

ROBINSON

► "Is it weird that half of these picks are about teenagers? Don't take my question as criticism though; one of the movies that I picked — that nobody else probably even thought of — was 'The Perks of Being a Wallflower,' which may be

the teen angst-iest of them all. Anyway, are we as a group of individuals regressing, or have years of youth marketing finally caught on and started working on us?" **PAT HEALY**

► "I'm wearing Uggs and Justin Bieber's hair mist. I fear this list makes perfect sense to me." **MW**

► "Well, OK we all just wanted some fun this year. Plus, I think that the more serious-minded films that came out this year just seemed sort of dour. In recent years there have been some offerings that just seemed much cooler than 'Lincoln' and 'Zero Dark Thirty.' Those movies don't offer enough to tempt me out to the theater if I can catch 'Magic Mike' on Netflix at home." **HP**

► "Skyfall"? Anyone? Am I the only one who thought this was up there with 'Casino Royale' in terms of Bond films (and opportunities to drool at Daniel Craig)? And speaking of drooling, how did 'Magic Mike' not make this list?"

MEREDITH ENGEL

► "Easy: Banana hammocks are just WRONG." **AMBER RAY**

► "Channing Tatum's abs for the Oscar!" **MW**

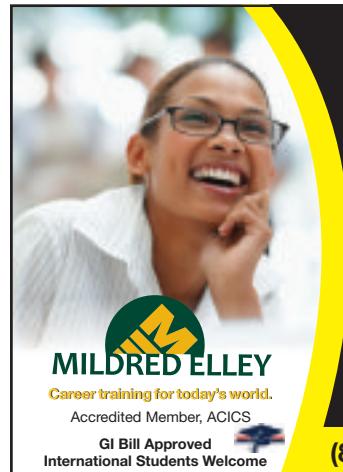
Editor's picks

Film critic Heidi Patalano's Top 5

- 1**. "Les Miserables"
- 2**. "Argo"
- 3**. "Moonrise Kingdom"
- 4**. "Seven Psychopaths"
- 5**. "Smashed"

"When it comes to 'Les Miserables' you can believe the hype. Getting to see live performances of that music up-close was an unusually emotional experience. Though I have had nothing to do with his career, I feel proud of Ben Affleck for establishing himself as solid director with 'Argo.'

Wes Anderson never disappoints me. And I hope that putting 'Seven Psychopaths' and 'Smashed' on this list will get more people to check out these overlooked gems."



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myyear in review

TOP 5 TV SHOWS OF 2012

► "OK, the 'Mindy' show is amazing — not because there's finally a cool Indian chick on TV, which BTW, is major — but because it appeals to real women, the ones who perhaps didn't get asked to prom but grew up to be badass, hysterical, Celine-bag swinging hotshots. I don't mind that she flaunts it." **TINA CHADHA**

► "I want to steal Mindy's life and/or be her permanent brunch date. She's like a Zooey Deschanel that I don't want to smother a little bit." **MONICA WEYMOUTH**

► "I really like 'The Mindy Project' — it's good — but there's no way it's the best show on TV. That would be 'Sherlock' and 'Breaking Bad.'

Metro's Top 5

- 1. "The Mindy Project"
- 2. "Parks and Recreation"
- 3. "The Walking Dead"
- 4. "Masterpiece: Sherlock"
- 5. "Louie"



► Mindy Kaling stars in "The Mindy Project."



► Amy Poehler stars as Leslie Knope on "Parks and Recreation."

I would kill a man to work on 'Sherlock.' I know people say that as hyperbole but I really, really mean it (sorry, random dude). It's as close to genius as TV gets these days."

DOROTHY ROBINSON

► "I want to state for the record that against all of my best instincts I welcome the world knowing and loving a man with the so-British-it's-silly-on-an-almost-Monty-Python-level name of Benedict Cumberbatch!" **PAT HEALY**

► "Anyone else have a weird crush on Louis CK? Just me? I can't help it: He hates us all so good." **MW**

► "I've caught the occasional 'Louie' episode and they've

all left me wondering: '... the f— was that?' in a good way."

MEREDITH ENGEL

► "Angry dudes, obviously, make the best TV — from a divorced doc ('Mindy') to a zombie-fighting lawman ('The Walking Dead') to an anti-government government employee ('Parks and Rec,' though give Ron Swanson his sax and all is right with the world.)" **AMBER RAY**

► "If I'm being honest, I mostly watch 'The Walking Dead' because I know — I know — that Andrew Lincoln will drop the zombie-slaying act any day now and declare his undying love for Keira Knightley with cue cards. Wait for it." **MW**

Editor's picks

TV Editor Amber Ray's Top 5

- 1. "Masterpiece: Sherlock"
- 2. "Louie"
- 3. "Parks and Recreation"
- 4. "Breaking Bad"
- 5. "Homeland"

Sherlock Holmes has been done dozens of times before. And yet the detective, in Benedict Cumberbatch's guise, becomes this incredibly exotic, infuriatingly distant



► Martin Freeman, left, and Benedict Cumberbatch star in "Sherlock."

being to whom we're nonetheless drawn because of his genius and unyielding confidence. Well, and his impeccably tailored sense of style.

Or maybe I'm just a sucker for tortured mad men with gunmetal eyes.

Then there is the writing on "Sherlock." The ending of "The Reichenbach Fall" and Sherlock's showdown with Moriarty (Andrew Scott) was so, so good, I can't believe we might have to wait until 2014 to see the resolution of the Season 2 cliffhanger.

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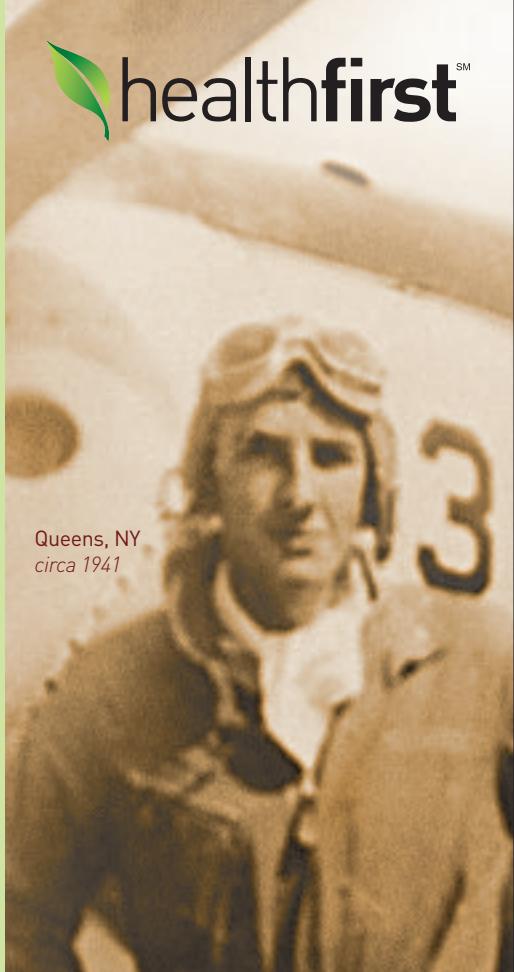
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my year in review

TOP 5 IN MUSIC OF 2012

► A few artists we greeted by saying, 'Hey, I just met you!' ► Many of us learned that 'Somebody That I Used to Know' was not by somebody that we used to know

► "I'll start by criticizing myself (and roping you all in with it, so it might touch a nerve). How did we all leave 'We Are Young' by Fun. off this list? Is it because we're all too old to sing that song out loud, because we know it's just not true? It can't be! We all love movies about teenagers (see page 16). Is it the annoying way that they punctuate their name? Or is that opening of the song just too schlocky to make it all worth the amazing chorus? Also, here's where I'm a little bit of a jerk: That Gotye song officially started getting airplay last year."

PAT HEALY, MUSIC EDITOR

► "For me, the problem with Fun. is 'My friends are in the bathroom, getting higher than the Empire State.' This line ruined friends, getting high and New York for me. FOR SHAME, Fun.!" MONICA WEYMOUTH



► Frank Ocean made many best-of lists this year, and he is the reason that 2012 may be remembered as the year that hip-hop souled out.

GETTY IMAGES

Metro votes

- 1. Frank Ocean, "channel ORANGE"
- 2. TIE: Father John Misty, "Fear Fun"; PSY, "Gangnam Style"*
- 3. Carly Rae Jepsen, "Call Me Maybe"
- 4. Gotye, "Somebody That I Used to Know"
- 5. TIE: Rihanna, "Diamonds"; Ke\$ha, "Warrior"

*This list includes albums + singles.

count it!" MW

► "What about Kanye this year? Did anybody vote for 'Cruel Summer'?" PH

► "I say this every single year, and I hate change so I'll say it again: I have never heard anything by Kanye West that I didn't want to turn off immediately. Who's old and grumpy? This girl — this girl right here." MW

► "Oh man, Monica, give 'Mercy' a chance! There's so much going on in this track. I love how it flawlessly switches between winding dancehall to some gritty Southern rap all while maintaining a cool, dark undertone and then suddenly taking a left turn to an electronic dance party. Yup, you have to bring ALL your moves to the floor."

Adding to the awesomeness is the all-black ninja-Bedouin looks everyone sports in the stylized video." TINA CHADHA

► "Tina, I appreciate you thinking that I'm anywhere near this cool." MW

► "I think it would have — hell, I still haven't even seen the 'Gangnam Style' video, but I somehow know the dance. I personally enjoyed Britney trying her hand at it while appearing on 'Ellen.'" MEREDITH ENGEL

► "I think a prerequisite for Best Song of the Year means we can sing along with it. Oh man, I'm such a xenophobe." DOROTHY ROBINSON

► "Heeeeey sexy lady!" AR

Editor's picks



Father John Misty

Music editor Pat Healy's Top 5

- 1. Father John Misty, "Fear Fun"
- 2. Michael Kiwanuka, "Home Again"
- 3. Big Boi, "Vicious Lies and Dangerous Rumors"
- 4. Frank Ocean, "channel ORANGE"
- 5. TIE: Bruce Springsteen, "Wrecking Ball" & The Walkmen, "Heaven"

Look at the top lists of any major publication and there are few similarities. I'm surprised more outlets aren't praising the stellar songcraft of **Father John Misty** and **Michael Kiwanuka**. Maybe because both are so rooted in sounds of the '60s and '70s. As for my next two entries, **Big Boi** and **Frank Ocean**, are doing great things to push their genres forward. Almost every track on the Big Boi album is a collaboration with an indie band. The results are completely original. Frank Ocean is an original too. I've said this before, but it really is like he's on the forefront of bringing a much needed update to R&B. The new school never knew a world where hip-hop didn't exist and that's formed their worldviews in such a unique way.

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wrap to move toxins and promote inch loss.

Authors on their best reads of 2012

Forget the critics — the best book recommendations come from people who write them
So we asked the authors of the books we enjoyed this year for their top picks

Every year we ask the authors we enjoyed covering in Metro for their top reads of the past 365 days. Here is this year's best of the best. • METRO

Alan Light: R.J. Smith's "The One: The Life and Music of James Brown"

THE ONE "This was an ambitious, comprehensive and long-overdue biography of a towering figure in music across the globe."

— Alan Light is the author of "The Holy or the Broken: Leonard Cohen, Jeff Buckley, and the Unlikely Ascent of 'Hallelujah.'"

Edmund White: John Irving's "In One Person"

"This is a gripping, completely readable tale fashioned by a straight man's effort to imagine himself into several marginal sexualities. I also loved 'In Search of Klingsor' by Jorge Volpi, about a physicist in 1945 rounding up Hitler's top nuclear scientists. During Sandy I read Willa Cather's 'Song of the Lark' by flashlight."

— Edmund White is the author of "Jack Holmes and His Friend."



John Irving: Edmund White's "Jack Holmes and His Friend"

"What I admire most about 'Jack Holmes and His Friend' is the seamlessness of the shifts in point of view and narrative voice. It is a novel about the friendship between a gay man and his straight friend, and it is not only written from each of their points of view; it is written in both the third person and the first person. I find that very hard to do, but Edmund makes it look easy."

— John Irving is the author of "In One Person."



Stephen Davis: Robert J. Seidman's "Moments Captured"

"It's a novel about Eadweard Muybridge, who invented the moving image. He completely changed the way that humanity sees itself. This novel is an evocation of a very pivotal time in the history of the moving image."

— Stephen Davis is the author of "More Room in a Broken Heart: The True Adventures of Carly Simon."



Chris Cleave: Vaddey Ratner's "In the Shadow of the Banyan;" Kevin Powers' "The Yellow Birds"

"I choose Vaddey Ratner's 'In the Shadow of the Banyan' — a beautiful take on the Cambodian genocide — and Kevin Powers' 'The Yellow Birds,' chronicling one soldier's experience in Iraq. This is the novel at its best, taking us far beyond the ordinary and leaving us spooked and exhilarated."

— Chris Cleave is the author of "Gold."



Peter Ames Carlin: Jim Lynch's "Truth Like the Sun"

"Set in the Seattle of 1962 and 2001, Lynch's novel tracks his characters through decades of civic idealism, corruption, death and rebirth. His darkly hilarious portrait of modern journalism is alone worth the price of admission."

— Peter Ames Carlin is the author of the Bruce Springsteen biography, "Bruce."





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Where to have your first meal of 2013

As you emerge on Jan. 1 with smudged liner and a pounding headache, resist the urge to lie under the covers all day. Instead, start 2013 with the quintessential morning-after meal: the hangover brunch. Hit one of these spots to chow down and reminisce about the night before — at least, what you remember of it.

• MEREDITH ENGEL

► Indulge in a plate of cheesy-good Chilaquiles at **China Latina** (127 West 28th Street, 646-397-9881), where chef Julieta Ballesteros (a Metro favorite) loads hers with shredded chicken, tomatillos, red salsa, Chihuahua cheese, refried beans and two poached eggs. Brunch is being served noon to 4 p.m., with unlimited mimosas, bellinis or champagne available for \$19.95 with the purchase of select dishes.

► Hoppin' John, a traditional Southern dish full of black eyed peas, rice,



► The Lion's burger looks a lot better than the Big Mac you'll be wolfing down at 3 a.m.

► **The Lion** (62 W. 9th St., 212-353-8400) is serving light fare if you want to start your diet early (and they have a juice bar!). But

comforting classics like berry pancakes and chicken and waffles are available if you're still recovering from the night

before. Keep an eye out for future stars — this is where Barbra Streisand made her singing debut. Brunch is from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.

bacon, onion and spices that's supposed to bring money and happiness in the new year, comes complimentary with your Jan. 1 buffet brunch at **Neely's Barbecue Parlor** (1125 First Ave., 212-832-1551). Also

on the menu: smoked brisket hash with poached eggs and smoked tomato bearnaise, plus the Velvet Elvis — French toast stuffed with peanut butter, bananas and fluff with Jack Daniels custard sauce.

Brunch runs 10 a.m.-3 p.m. ► **Marble Lane** (Dream Downtown Hotel, 355 W. 16th St., 212-229-2336) is convinced your diet starts Jan. 2. The celeb-heavy spot has on its menu disco fries, mac 'n cheese soup and a

hanger "over" Philly cheesesteak sandwich — complete with cheese, onions and cheese wiz (Philly folks will know that's the real deal). Brunch starts at 11:30 a.m. and goes til closing at midnight.

► At **KTCHN** (508 W. 42nd St., 212-868-2999), the restaurant inside hotel THE OUT NYC, the all-day Revive brunch menu, served 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., boasts everything from burgers to eggs Benedict. An all-you-can-drink menu gets you unlimited bloody marys, bellinis and mimosas for \$45 (two-hour limit).

► New lesbian-leaning bi-level spot **The Dalloway** (525 Broome St., 212-966-9620) is serving a take on the classic egg-in-a-hole, with honey-baked ham and jalapeno maple syrup. There's also a breakfast pizza, blueberry pancakes, sliders and classy cocktails. Two brunch choices — served 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. — will set you back just \$16.



Don't miss

Back Forty

► In addition to its regular brunch, Back Forty (190 Ave. B, 212-388-1992) is adding specials like house-made Mortadella with eggs Benedict on an English muffin with black pepper hollandaise sauce for Jan. 1. Come by between noon and 6 p.m.

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Is the skin on your legs red and dry?

Do you experience cramps in your legs, especially at nights?

Do you have non-healing wounds in your ankle areas?

Do you have spider veins on your legs and/or ankles?

Do the veins in your legs appear very dark blue or purple?

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Ingredients:

1 oz. Disaronno
1 oz. Tequila blanco
1 oz. margarita mix
½ fresh banana

Mix all ingredients in a blender with ice and pour into a chilled cocktail glass. Garnish with a banana slice.

**Restaurant notes****Now open:****► Black Hound Bar & Lounge**
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A modern-day speakeasy where the drinks by Mulberry Project and Death & Co.'s Jeremy Straw are inspired by writers and poets.

► The Burger Bistro
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The upscale Brooklyn patty joint comes to the Upper East Side.

Pig and Khao deals

► The trendy LES pan-Asian eatery is now offering \$1 beers every day from 5 to 7 p.m., plus a new \$39 five-course chef's tasting menu on Mondays and Wednesdays all night. Two menu standouts: Braised beef short rib with massaman curry, potato puree and crispy shallots,

and homemade doughnuts.

Lunch prix fixe at Sfoglia

► Sfoglia (1402 Lexington Ave., 212-831-1402) has a \$28 three-course prix fixe lunch that's being until the end of January. Lentil soup, gorganelli with brussel sprouts, arborio rice pudding and other hearty Italian dishes are on the menu.

Web-savvy ways to pick your wine

If you're done with being overwhelmed by the liquor store shelves, we don't blame you. These two tools seek to end the confusion.

► Visit www.sokolin.com to search wines by country, region, vintage, color, price and more. You can even chat with a wine consultant while you're there and place same-day orders.

► Or leave the choosing to your phone: Kendall-Jackson's new K-J Recommends App picks the best vino for your evening based on everything from the occasion and your mood to the colors of the food



► Slice up that panettone for a tasty morning treat.

you'll be enjoying and your sense of smell. The app can even choose which wine would be best for you based on your Facebook profile — what will they think of next? Free on the iTunes store.

Here's how to eat all that panettone

► If you're like us, you've likely got a big hunk of panettone sitting around your house (thanks, Nana!) and don't know how you're going to finish it. Turn it into

a brunch dish with this recipe from Julio Genao, the executive chef at Italian eatery Casa Nonna (310 W. 38th St., 212-736-3000).

Panettone Tostado
Ingredients:

1 ea. Panettone, sliced ¼ inch thick
3 eggs
1 cup orange juice
¼ cup Half and Half
1 orange, zested
1 lemon, zested
½ teaspoon salt
¼ teaspoon sugar

Directions:

1 In a large bowl, whisk together the eggs, salt, sugar, vanilla, lemon zest, orange zest and Half and Half.

2 When the mixture is well incorporated, whisk in the orange juice.

3 Soak the panettone in the batter, letting it sit for about four minutes.

4 Heat a skillet on medium heat, add the olive oil, place the panettone in the pan and cook for a couple minutes. Then, throw the panettone in the oven for three minutes, flip and continue to cook in the oven for another three minutes until golden brown.

5 Dust the panettone with powder sugar. Serve with ricotta and fig jam. ■ METRO/ME

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John 4:8

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- You are medically and psychiatrically stable
- You are not currently using any drugs such as marijuana, or cocaine.

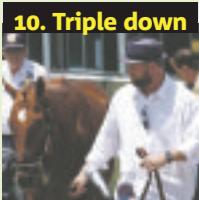
Reimbursement for travel expenses and time (up to \$2554.80) for:

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TOP 10 STORYLINES

► Bad news dominated much of New York's landscape in 2012 ► Though one team did find magic in February ► But really, could anything top Tebow or Lin?



10. Triple down

We'll have another
Back in June, the sports world had its eyes on tiny Elmont, N.Y., and I'll Have Another as he ran for horse racing's Triple Crown. That is, until it all came to a sudden end on Friday morning before the race. Trainer Doug O'Neill pulled the Kentucky Derby and Preakness winner with a leg injury, killing the race's buzz.



9. Broooook-lyn

A new borough
Professional sports returned to Brooklyn this fall when the Nets kicked off their season at the Barclays Center. It got off to a false start with the hurricane postponing the Knicks-Nets season opener, but the fans have come out in abundance since. Now they just have to turn their season around and play better basketball.



8. Legend down

No more shagging
The greatest closer of all-time isn't supposed to go out in a heap on the warning track in Kansas City while shagging balls in batting practice. Thankfully, Mariano Rivera won't be retiring off that moment. Rivera missed the rest of 2012 with a torn ACL, but does anyone not expect him back as strong as ever?



7. Devils!!!

Remember the NHL?
David Puddy's favorite team, the Devils, made an improbable playoff run to the Stanley Cup finals. Yes, it came up short at the hands of the L.A. Kings, but Pete DeBoer's boys — and a decidedly older Martin Brodeur — were impressive. Honorable mention to the Rangers, who had a tremendous regular season.



6. Finally hitless

Mets get their gem
This was the year we can all finally stop asking when the Mets will get a no-hitter. It seemed particularly fitting that Johan Santana, back from major shoulder surgery no less, should be the first to do it in franchise history. Santana, and the Mets, went downhill from there, but for one night everything was right.

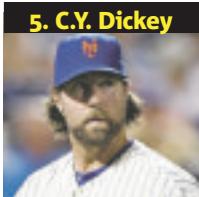
3

Good year, bad year



Good year

The stench of Isiah Thomas is gone. It's been a long time since Jeff van Gundy was ousted, but the Knicks are finally winning again. They got their first playoff victory this spring, but really the story is the incredible performance this season. The team is tops in the East.



5. C.Y. Dickey

Good news, bad news
The good news is R.A. Dickey won the Mets' first Cy Young award since Doc Gooden in 1985. The bad news — he was shipped to Toronto a month later for prospects. There was only one season-long story for the Mets that was enjoyable and it came from a 38-year-old knuckleballer who had been plucked off the scrap heap.



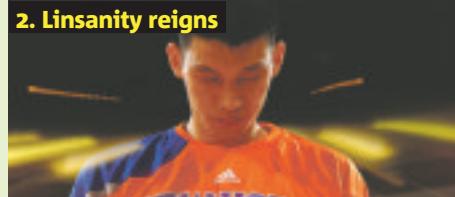
4. Benched

A-Rod rides the pine
Five years ago, Alex Rodriguez hit 54 homers, drove in 156 runs and was rewarded with a new 10-year, \$275 million deal. In this year's playoffs, he couldn't even make it into the lineup. A-Rod spent much of the post-season benched — and the rest striking out in big situations. But at least he didn't have to hit eighth, right?



3. Déjà vu

Yes, he is elite
The city did earn one championship in 2012 — thanks to another unlikely run by Eli Manning and the Giants. Just four years after dispatching the 18-0 Patriots, they again got the better of Tom Brady, this time scoring a touchdown on the ground and then batting down Brady's last second Hail Mary attempt.



2. Linsanity reigns

Jeremy spoke all right
If you were going to pick a more Lin-spirational story in 2012 than the ascension of Knicks guard Jeremy Lin you'd be hard-pressed to find one. You might say his season was Lin-tacular, even downright Lin-sane when you think about it. The puns aren't any less annoying after six months off, are they? What made the story of Lin so great was that it

came out of nowhere. A guy from Harvard, sleeping on his brother's couch, making chump change in the D-league, and now he's the best player in the biggest city in the country? It just doesn't seem possible. The comet burned out pretty quickly, however. He flamed out thanks to a knee injury, before the Knicks shockingly let him walk to Houston in the offseason.



Bad year

There's a lot of dysfunction in New York this year, but the Jets take the cake, mainly because they don't even have a way out.

While the Mets are at least building for the future, the Jets have two useless first-round QBs and a owner hellbent on bringing in Mike Vick.

1. Tebow, Tebow, Tebow

There once was a story about a good, Christian kid who was just darned "excited" to come play in the big city.

And then the entire Jets team went to pot. Oops.

Sure, we could've picked the disastrous season that got Mark

Sanchez benched in 2012 (buttfumble!), the insipid nonsense regularly spouted by owner Woody Johnson, Bart Scott's occasional media blackout or the completely broken spirit of Rex Ryan by season's end.

But we all know everything Jets-related in 2012

begins and ends with Tim Tebow.

He made many more back pages than pass completions for the Jets, but no one can say they didn't see this epic disaster coming from a mile away. Well, except for the Jets anyway.

• MARK OSBORNE



► It was a simpler time when Tebow was introduced to the adoring masses.

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